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**Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)**

**General and complete disarmament**

## Letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in my capacity as New York coordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the text of the Declaration of the States members of OPANAL, issued on the occasion of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, on 26 September 2016 (see annex).

I would appreciate your assistance in having the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 91 and 98.

(*Signed*) Antonio **de Aguiar Patriota**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 29 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

## Declaration of the States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (26 September 2016)

The States members of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL),

**Conscious** of their historic commitment to global nuclear disarmament,

**Proud** to belong to Latin America and the Caribbean, the first densely populated region in the world that established a nuclear-weapon-free zone by means of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

**Fully aware** that they remain a political, legal and institutional model for the creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones in different parts of the world,

**Reiterating** the full validity of the declarations on nuclear disarmament adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 20 August 2013 in Buenos Aires, on 29 January 2014 in Havana, on 29 January 2015 in Belen and on 27 January 2016 in Quito,

**Reaffirming** their rejection of nuclear weapons, which, after more than 70 years of existence and use, continue to present an imminent danger of destruction to the planet and a risk to international peace and security,

**Stressing** the humanitarian impact caused by the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and by the numerous nuclear tests,

**Highlighting** the importance of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 7 December 2015: resolutions 70/47, entitled "Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons", 70/48, entitled "Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons", and 70/50, entitled "Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world",

**Recognizing** the relevance of the report of the Open-ended Working Group established through resolution 70/33 of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", which met in Geneva in 2016,

**Recognizing** that a world without nuclear weapons is essential for the accomplishment of the priority objectives of humanity, those being peace, security and development,

**Considering** that 14 February 2017 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created a new institute of international law: the nuclear-weapon-free zone,

**Announcing** that said commemoration will take place within the framework of the XXV session of the General Conference of OPANAL, to be held at the ministerial level, an occasion in which Caribbean and Latin

American States will renew their commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons,

**The States members of OPANAL,**

**Join** in the commemoration, on 26 September 2016, of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, established in 2013 by resolution 68/32 of the United Nations General Assembly;

**On this occasion, the member States:**

1. Reiterate their grave concern in the face of the imminent threat posed by the ongoing existence of nuclear weapons and their potential use or threat of use;

2. Express their deep dismay at the approximately 15,000 nuclear weapons that still exist and that would cause unacceptable humanitarian consequences due to their immense, uncontrollable destructive capability shown by the use and testing of nuclear weapons in the last 70 years;

3. Recall that this concern is reflected in numerous United Nations resolutions, including resolution 1 (I) of 24 January 1946, the first resolution adopted by the General Assembly, as well as in the preamble of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean of 1967, in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968 and in the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, held in 1978 (resolution S-10/2);

4. Recall that the first special session of the General Assembly on disarmament affirmed that "nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind and to the survival of civilization", and that such situation has not changed;

5. Firmly demand that nuclear weapons not be used again, under any circumstances by any actor, which can only be assured by the prohibition and the transparent, verifiable and irreversible elimination of all nuclear weapons;

6. Reiterate the pressing need to begin negotiations for the prompt conclusion of a universal and legally binding instrument prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and including provisions for their destruction in a transparent, irreversible and verifiable manner under a multilaterally agreed timetable, and reiterate their commitment to join forces to promote this priority objective;

7. Welcome the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Open-ended Working Group established through resolution 70/33 of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", and celebrate the efforts towards achieving the broadest support to commence negotiations at the seventy-first session of the United Nations General Assembly for a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination;

8. Reiterate the call upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States, to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in their security and defence doctrines and policies and to comply fully with their legal obligations and unequivocal commitments to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons without further delay;

9. Firmly demand that nuclear-weapon States cease the qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and development of new types of these weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament;

10. Urge nuclear-weapon States that made interpretative declarations concerning Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which are contrary to the spirit of the Treaty, to review them together with OPANAL with the aim of revising or eliminating them in order to give full and unequivocal security assurances to the States that comprise the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the region;

11. Confirm the inalienable right of all States, in conformity with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination;

12. Celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) on 18 July 2016, and the outstanding work it performs for the implementation of the Control System of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in Argentina and Brazil, States members of OPANAL;

13. Urge the nuclear-weapon States to fulfil their obligations and commitments undertaken according to article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to advance towards the complete elimination of those weapons, and urge them to fully implement the practical steps towards nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as the action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

14. Recall that the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 68/32, decided to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard;

15. Regret the failure to reach agreement on measures related to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, thus delaying compliance with the resolution on the Middle East (1995), an integral part of the commitments of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and of the final outcome of the 2000 and 2010 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

16. Welcome the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on 24 September 2016, and urge the States included in annex 2, whose ratification is required for the entry into force of the Treaty[a] and that have not ratified the Treaty, to take the necessary measures to do so as soon as possible;

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[a] The People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United States of America, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Israel and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

17. Call upon all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon test explosions, other nuclear explosions or any other relevant non-explosive experiment, including subcritical experiments for the improvement of nuclear weapons; such actions are contrary to the objective and purposes of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, as well as to the spirit of the Treaty, undermining the desired impact as a nuclear disarmament measure;

18. Undertake to continue to work for the implementation of nuclear disarmament education programmes, convinced that they are an effective means for contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security;

19. Reiterate their commitment, in accordance with the Humanitarian Pledge, endorsed by 127 States, among them all the States members of OPANAL, to cooperate with all relevant stakeholders, States, international organizations, parliamentarians and civil society, with the aim of stigmatizing, prohibiting and eliminating nuclear weapons owing to their unacceptable humanitarian consequences and risks associated with them;

20. Take pride in the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace, adopted at the second Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in Havana on 29 January 2014, in which they declared the commitment of the States of the region to continue to promote nuclear disarmament as a priority objective and to contribute to general and complete disarmament and the strengthening of confidence among nations;

21. Reaffirm their permanent commitment to all humankind, primarily to children and youth, to keep their territories forever free from nuclear weapons and to continue to work so that the entire world becomes free again of these weapons of mass destruction, as it was before 1945.